

Message Text

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13

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SIL-01 LAB-06 EB-11 SS-15 L-03 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IGA-02 RSR-01 AGR-20

AID-20 /112 W

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R 112100Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3246

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2639

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, ES

SUBJECT: BORGONOVO COMMENTS ON AIFLD AND LAND REFORM

REF: SAN SALVADOR 2392 (NOTAL; SAN SALVADOR 2452 (NOTAL)

1. I CALLED ON FONMIN BORGONOVO TODAY (JULY 10) AND TOLD HIM IN DETAIL OF THE CONCERN OF THE US LABOR MOVEMENT AT THE EXPULSION OF AIFLD FROM THE COUNTRY. HE REPLIED THAT AIFLD REPRESENTATIVES WERE INTERFERING QN THE INTERNAL POLITICS OF THE COUNTRY AND THAT HE UNDERSTOOD AIFLD REP HORNA HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM PERU, PERHAPS FOR THE SAME KIND OF ACTIVITIES. HE THEN WENT IN DETAIL INTO THE WHOLE PROBLEM OF AGRARIAN REFORM IN EL SALVADOR. HE SAID THAT THIS COUNTRY IS UNIQUE; THAT IT HAS NO MINERAL WEALTH AND MUST THUS DEPEND ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO EARN DIVISAS: "WE CANNOT, THEREFORE, RISK STRUCTURAL FAILURE IN THIS IMPORTANT AREA." HE CLAIMED THAT AGRARIAN REFORM THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA HAS HAD A CHECKERED HISTORY: IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC THEY SIMPLY NATIONALIZED TRUJILLO'S HOLDINGS; IN PERU THE LAND BELONGED TO LARGE FOREIGN INTERESTS; IN COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA, THE REFORM IS A TOTAL FAILURE. INDEED, HE FEELS JAPAN AND

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TAIWAN ARE THE ONLY EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL REFORMS, DUE IN

LARGE PART TO MASSIVE U.S. HELP. I ASKED IF THE MODEST PROGRAM IN HONDURAS HAD MADE ANY WAVES IN SALVADOR AND HE SAID IT HAD NOT. HE EXPECTS IT WILL BE SIX TO NINE MONTHS BEFORE MOLINA'S PROPOSALS FOR REFORM WILL BE UNVEILED.

2. COMMENT: THE FONMIN'S REACTION REINFORCED THAT OF PRES. MOLINA: LAND REFORM IS SUPER-SENSITIVE IN THIS COUNTRY AND THE GOES FEELS IT MUST APPROACH THE SUBJECT IN ITS OWN WAY AND AT A PACE WHICH IT CONSIDERS SUITABLE.
CATTO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAND REFORMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANSAS02639
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS CATTO
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730740/aaaabdhnl.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 SAN SALVADOR 2392 (NOTAL; SAN SAL, VADOR 2452 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Jan-2002 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <06-Feb-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BORGONOVO COMMENTS ON AIFLD AND LAND REFORM
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, ES, AIFLD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005